Uphill Triumph Over GW Moves Wakefield to Top

By EDDIE CRANE
Star Staff Writer

Wakefield High School's ability to successfully wage an uphill basketball fight has put the Warriors in the Virginia Group 1-A Potomac District lead for the first time in nearly a month.

The Warriors, who defeated host George Washington 54-50 last night to replace the Presidents in first place, can clinch a tie by defeating Yorktown Tuesday.

Wakefield's only other remaining district game is not until Feb. 16 against Williams. GW has three district games left.

Although Wakefield outscored GW 21-8 in the fourth quarter, its key rally might have been a six-point burst just before halftime.
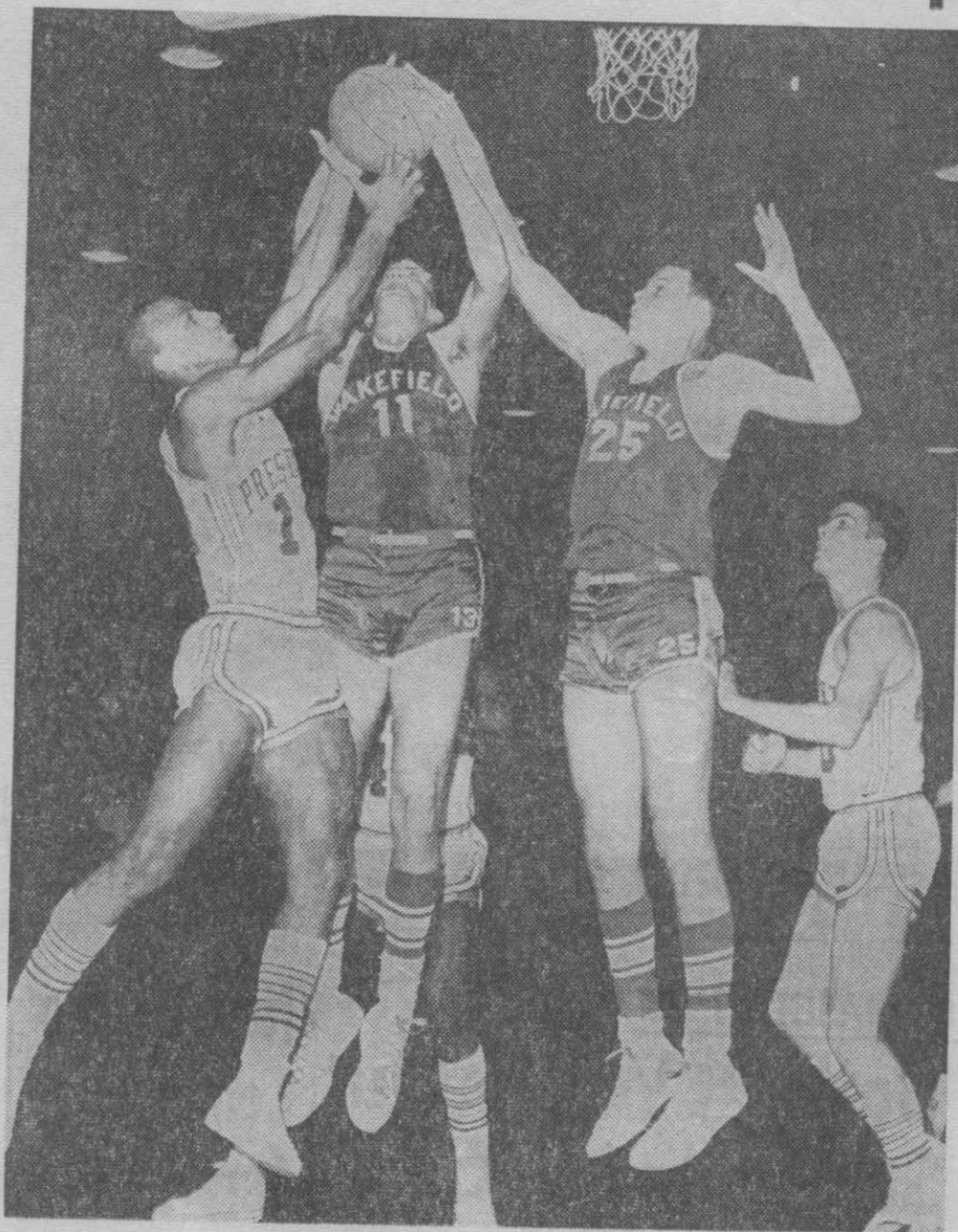
GW raced to a 26-9 lead midway through the second period, but six straight points by Wakefield cut the Presidents' halftime margin to 31-21.

"That gave us new life," said Jim Vandell, the Wakefield coach. The victory, Wakefield's fourth straight, avenged a 67-58 loss to GW on Jan. 12.

Wakefield's fourth-period rally earned the Warriors a 48-48 tie on a one-hander by Bruce McLennan with 3½ minutes to play. After almost two minutes without a score, Jim Warns hit a layup to give the Warriors their first lead, 50-48.

Earl Quash pulled GW back into a tie with two free throws at 49 seconds, but Wakefield got its winning points on a driving layup by Bob Brewer with 33 seconds left and two free throws by Harold Black with 13 seconds to go.

Lorenzo Barnes of George Washington successfully battles Steve Rixse (center) and Steve Allen of Wakefield for a rebound during last night's game at GW. Wakefield won 54-50.